

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A metal filling method comprising steps of:

forming a non-through hole which extends from a first surface toward an opposite surface of a work piece;

forming a metal layer on ~~at least~~ an inner peripheral surface portion of the non-through hole adjacent to the first surface of the work piece, and on a portion of the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the non-through hole, such that the metal layer is directly adhered to the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the non-through hole;

filling the non-through hole with molten metal and allowing the molten metal to solidify; and

removing part of the work piece such that the solidified metal is exposed through the opposite surface of the work piece.

10. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 9, wherein the non-through hole is filled by immersing the work piece in a molten metal.

11. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 10, wherein the filled metal is solidified by discharging the work piece from the molten metal.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The metal filling according to claim 9, wherein part of the work piece is removed by polishing.

14. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 9, wherein the solidified metal comprises an external section which protrudes from the first surface of the work piece.

15. (Currently Amended) The metal filling method according to claim 14, wherein the external section comprises a bump.

16. (Currently Amended) A metal filling method comprising steps of:
forming a through hole which extends through a work piece from a first surface toward an opposite surface thereof;

forming a metal layer on ~~at least~~ an inner peripheral surface portion of the through hole adjacent to the first surface of the work piece, and on a portion of the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the through hole, such that the metal layer is directly adhered to the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the through hole;

closing an opening of the through hole in the opposite surface of the work piece;

filling the through hole with molten metal and allowing the molten metal to solidify; and

opening the closed opening of the through hole such that the solidified metal is exposed through the opening of the through hole.

17. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 16, wherein the through hole is filled by immersing the work piece in a molten metal.

18. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 17, wherein the filled metal is solidified by discharging the work piece from the molten metal.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 16, wherein the opening of the through hole is closed using a sealing material.

21. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 16, wherein the solidified metal comprises an external section which protrudes from the first surface of the work piece.

22. (Previously Presented) The metal filling method according to claim 21, wherein the external section comprises a bump.